

**From:** [Helm, Arron](#)  
**To:** [Lafferty, Shawn](#); [Atkinson, Ryan](#); [Taylor, Jeremy](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: OARM Seeking DA Approval for Two Personnel Actions  
**Date:** Monday, July 31, 2017 11:33:40 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Showman, John" <[Showman.John@epa.gov](mailto:Showman.John@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** July 31, 2017 at 11:30:43 AM EDT  
**To:** "Helm, Arron" <[Helm.Arron@epa.gov](mailto:Helm.Arron@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Collins, BJ" <[Collins.BJ@epa.gov](mailto:Collins.BJ@epa.gov)>, "Vizian, Donna" <[Vizian.Donna@epa.gov](mailto:Vizian.Donna@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: OARM Seeking DA Approval for Two Personnel Actions

Note below – you have the green light on the security manager position.

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**From:** Flynn, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2017 11:13 AM  
**To:** Showman, John <[Showman.John@epa.gov](mailto:Showman.John@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Vizian, Donna <[Vizian.Donna@epa.gov](mailto:Vizian.Donna@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: OARM Seeking DA Approval for Two Personnel Actions

Donna/John,

You are approved to move forward with the Security Manager position for OARM-RTP, but want to have my discussion with Donna/David before deciding on the EAB position.

Mike

*Mike Flynn*

*Acting Deputy Administrator*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

*202-564-4711*

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**From:** Showman, John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** Flynn, Mike <[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Flynn.Mike@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Vizian, Donna <[Vizian.Donna@epa.gov](mailto:Vizian.Donna@epa.gov)>; Showman, John <[Showman.John@epa.gov](mailto:Showman.John@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** OARM Seeking DA Approval for Two Personnel Actions

Mike:

OARM is seeking your approval on two personnel actions. Please let Donna or me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Thanks.

**Attorney for Environmental Appeals Board (GS-11)**

The Environmental Appeals Board requests approval to on-board an attorney to support them over the next two years. James Meinert accepted EPA's offer in early January to join EPA and his appointment date was established for September 3, 2017. Attached are copies of his resume and appointment letter.

James has impeccable credentials, with a joint JD and Masters of Public Health degree, and will make an immediate, positive contribution to the work of the Board on behalf of EPA's mission. Mr. Meinert has work experience at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and at the U.S. DOJ, but EPA was his first choice for a job to start his legal career. In fact, he passed up other opportunities during specific hiring windows available to third year law students last fall to come to EPA. Bringing James on board is critical to ensuring that the Board can continue to adjudicate administrative appeals – particularly permit appeals – in a fair and timely manner. James would join the Board as a GS-11 attorney (\$66,510 annual salary) on a two-year term appointment and would fill the void left by the premature departure of Eric Wilber (EAB's FY15-17 term attorney) in January from this term position. (Mr. Wilber left the Board to fill an available permanent position in OGC).

As you know, the Board serves as the final EPA decision maker in matters that are essential mission priorities and its decisions constitute final Agency action reviewable in federal court. The EAB is a small office that handles a wide array of increasingly complex appeals affecting numerous stakeholders nationwide (states, tribes, municipalities, U.S. and foreign businesses and citizen groups). For example, currently pending appeals include multiple challenges to a RCRA

corrective action permit involving a \$1 billion PCB cleanup, a UIC permit for an Arizona in-situ copper production test facility being challenged by a tribe and nearby town, and a NPDES permit issued to a town wastewater treatment plant in Massachusetts challenged by both the permittee and a citizen group. The Board has implemented new procedures and worked with our staff attorneys over the past few years to significantly decrease the amount of time the Board takes to decide permit appeals – which aligns with Administrator Pruitt’s emphasis on streamlining and expediting permit reviews. Bringing James on-board will help to ensure the Board’s continued timely adjudication of appeals.

Moreover, these permit appeals are but one aspect of the Board’s work. In addition to providing the final Agency review of enforcement and other matters, the Board is routinely asked by OITA to fulfill the U.S. Government’s international commitments, by providing training and sharing our expertise on environmental adjudication with other nations, to promote the rule of law and to level the playing field for U.S. businesses. The Board’s staff attorneys provide critical support for this work, and the ability to fulfill these commitments will be negatively impacted if James is not brought on board. Currently, the Board has commitments to provide training in Panama, Vietnam and Cambodia, and a tentative commitment in Peru.

In addition to his work for the Board, OARM has held discussions with John Reeder and Tanya Lawrence about James providing critical support to AO/OCIR to write and issue final agency decisions for employment discrimination complaints. James has demonstrated exceptional writing and analytical skills and would be assigned a case upon his

immediate arrival at the Agency. James is eager to begin work for EPA and is interested in joining the effort to address the civil rights case backlog.

Bringing James on Board on a two-year term appointment at the GS-11 grade level would be a short term and relatively low cost expenditure on the part of the Agency that would help achieve Administration priorities and will honor the commitment between EPA and James made in January.

### **Security Manager for OARM-RTP (GS-0080-12/13)**

The Security Manager Position at EPA-RTP is one of the most important staff positions within OARM-RTP due to the highly specialized nature of the work. OARM-RTP does not have the internal expertise to fill from within as this is the only position in that series at RTP. The Security Manager is responsible for the security operations of the entire campus which is comprised of the six (6) building main facility, First Environments Early Learning Center, National Computer Center, Human Studies Facility, and Page Road Warehouse. In total this is around 1.5 million square feet of space, housing around 1,300 federal employees and over 1,000 contractors. The facilities in RTP are multi use including over 400 research laboratories, a computer center, administrative space and the daycare facility. OARM-RTP, in coordination with the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, is also responsible for managing perimeter security for a 500 acre site, which houses all but two of the EPA-RTP facilities. The campus is an Interagency Building Security Committee Level 4 facility and, along with the two off-site facilities, require a 24 hour a day - 7 day per week security operation and presence. Primary duties for the Security Manager include physical and personnel security for the campus and employees. The

incumbent manages the EPA portion of a combined NIEHS/EPA security contract. The EPA portion is approximately \$4 million annually with 80 contract security staff working 24/7. This Security Manager also manages our physical security system and associated contract, employee credentialing and access, key control, parking enforcement, and serves as the primary contact for local, state and Federal agency and law enforcement. The incumbent represents EPA on the Research Triangle Park Foundation Owners and Tenants Associations and participates with other local organizations on security and law enforcement issues of joint concern. Additionally, the incumbent conducts security inspections, all employee training, security related investigations and advises senior management at RTP concerning security issues, policy and initiatives.

Considering the current environment nationally and in the world with terrorism, extremism and other domestic threats, security plays a major role in ensuring the successful accomplishment of the Agency's mission at EPA-RTP, the largest EPA site outside of DC, in a safe matter. Failure to fill this position in an expedient manner will be to the detriment of EPA-RTP's current physical and personnel security programs.

Because of the specific security experience required to be successful in this position and the lack of any current staff with this experience, OARM is requesting authority to announce this position external to the Agency.

John L Showman III, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Administration and Resources Management  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-5341